

Who Advocates for Audits?

Election/Voting System Experts

The Brennan Center Task Force on Voting System Security: "The Task Force has concluded that an independent voter-verified paper trail without an Automatic Routine Audit is of questionable security value."

—"The Machinery of Democracy: Protection Elections in an Electronic World," Summer, 2006

U.S. General Accounting Office: "A post election audit of voting systems should be conducted to reconcile vote totals and ballot counts, even if there is no recount scheduled....An audit of the election system and process should be conducted after election day to verify that the election was conducted correctly and to uncover any evidence of security breaches or other problems that may not have surfaced on election day."—"Elections: Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting Systems Are Under Way, but Key Activities Need to be Completed," Sept. 2005

Committee on A Framework for Understanding Electronic Voting: "Trusted election processes should be regarded as the gold standard of election administration, where a trusted election process is one that works, that can be shown to have worked after the election has been held, that can be shown to have not been manipulated and to have not led to a large number of mistaken or lost votes, and that can be shown to reflect the intent of the voters."— Dick Thornburgh, chair, "Asking the Right Questions About Electronic Voting," Sept. 2005

Computer Experts

American Statistical Association: "Conducting random audits in all localities will help maintain honesty, enable a factual description of this election, and provide the data needed for doing better in 2008."— Sallie Keller-McNulty, President

University of Connecticut Voting Technology Research Center: "Post-election audits are also strongly advised." Security Assessment of the Diebold Optical Scan Voting Terminal," 10/30/06

David Wagner, PhD, Prof. of Computer Science, UC Berkeley: "The 2007 VVSG should mandate voter-verified paper records and automatic manual audits of those records after every election." Testimony before the U.S. House Administration Committee, 7/19/06

Eugene Spafford, Prof. of Computer Science, Purdue University: "Spafford said he encourages voters to write to their state representatives and ask them to introduce and pass legislation that would require a paper audit."—"Voting machine errors disturbing for league," Journal & Courier, April 2, 2006

Larry English, Election Assessment Advisor, et al: "We strongly recommend election officials prepare to assess the accuracy of election outcomes in a transparent and publicly observable process by comparing election results against the results of a manual count of a statistically random sample of ballots selected from the complete pool of cast ballots."—Testimony before U.S. House Comm. on House Administration, 10/05/06

Voting Rights Organizations

League of Women Voters of the U.S.: "LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that: routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction." CARL Resolution, 6/06

Common Cause: "States should pass laws or adopt regulations requiring all voting systems to produce a Voter verified paper trail and mandate that at least 2% of voting jurisdictions, randomly selected, conduct public audits of their voting systems."—Election Reform: malfunction and malfeasance, 6/22/06

VoteTrustUSA.org: "This (audits) is the single most powerful action that a state election administrator could take to demonstrate their commitment to accuracy and security."—Warren Stewart, "Election Officials and Election Activist," 10/29/06

U.S. Representatives

221 members in the U.S. House of Representatives have signed on to H.R.550, which requires mandatory manual audits that would check for accuracy in every state's federal elections.